

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART
CLEVELAND 6. OHIO

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FOR RELEASE

The Musical Arts Department, of The Cleveland Museum of Art will present the B Minor Mass of Bach by St. Paul's Festival Choir and Orchestra in St. Paul's Episcopal Church at Fairmount and Coventry Roads, Cleveland Heights. It will be open free to the public. Like the programs of previous years it will feature direction of Walter Blodgett, curator of musical arts of the Art Museum and the Festival Chorus he has long conducted at St. James Episcopal Church and now at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. It will be the first year in which the program has been at St. Paul's which has extensive seating and parking capacities. It will be at 4.00 p.m. Sunday, April 6.

The singers will be accompanied by an orchestra with Joseph Knitzer as concert master; he played violin in the first program, April 14, 1946 of Bach's St. Matthew Passion. Fenner Douglass, of the Oberlin Conservatory of Music will be at the organ. Gretchen Garnett, soprano, and Philip McGregor, bass, are this year's soloists who were also featured in the initial program. Glenn Schmittke will sing the tenor part. Mrs. Garnett is one of our most admired local artists. Mr. McGregor and Mr. Schmittke have come into genuine national fame, in both this country and Canada, their recent performances with the Toronto Symphony being particularly notable.

Mr. Blodgett points out that "The B Minor Mass" is Bach's greatest work and that it will be presented completely, unusual because of its great length. "It contains some of his most magnificent and lofty writing," he says, "and next to Handel's " ' Messiah' is the most performed work of the kind."

It will be given in two sections, each lasting an hour and five minutes with a short intermission.